

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration and entry of this application are requested. Claims 1, 2, 7, 9, and 12-28 are pending in the application of which claims 16-24 have been withdrawn from consideration.

The claims have been amended in order to more particularly point out and distinctly claim that which applicants regard as their invention and to direct them to preferred aspects of the disclosure. More specifically, the weight average molecular weight has been amended to specify a value of 1500 to 8000 and is based upon the description of the invention generally and in particular on page 13, first paragraph, line 9. The significance of this change will be apparent from the remarks that follow.

Applicants note that the examiner has questioned enablement for claims 14 and 15; see items 31-33 of the Action. Basis for adhesion strength value of 150 is indeed present in Example 1, as the examiner noted. However, the description includes an adhesion strength for not only Example 1 but Examples 2-4 which, it will be noted, ranges from 180 to 320 as shown and summarized on Table 3, page 38 of the specification. This is indeed consistent with a minimum value of 150 and in fact is drawn more closely to the detailed description of the invention including the working examples than the value previously used. Reconsideration of this rejection is requested.

All of the examined claims stand rejected as allegedly being "obvious" and therefore unpatentable over US 5,856,017 to Matsuda et al in view of Kajimaru US 2002/0061959 and two additional references. This response will focus on the deficiencies of the Kajimaru disclosure and in particular the examiner's comments in items 5-7 of the current Action, notably item 5. As the examiner correctly points out there is disclosure of a weight average molecular weight of 9000 or more in paragraph [0009] of Kajimaru and indeed this appears to be an important part of the rejection as it is argued that applicants' claims overlap with the disclosures of Kajimaru as regards weight average molecular weight.

From the amendments made above it will be apparent that applicants' claims are distinct from and do not overlap with the disclosures of Kajimaru and thus define subject matter that is patentably distinct from this reference and with it the entire combination of documents.

For the above reasons it is respectfully submitted that applicants' claims define patentable subject matter and that this Amendment should be considered and entered.

YOSHIDA ET AL.
Appl. No. 10/563,299
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All outstanding issues have been addressed and this application is in condition for allowance. Should any minor issues remain outstanding, the Examiner should contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below so they can be resolved expeditiously without need of a further written action.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency, or credit any overpayment, in the fee(s) filed, or asserted to be filed, or which should have been filed herewith (or with any paper hereafter filed in this application by this firm) to our Deposit Account No. 14-1140.

Respectfully submitted,

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